

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (SEIR/S)

Bel Marin Keys Unit V Expansion Hamilton Army Airfield Wetland Restoration Project Novato, Marin County, CA

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District (Corps) in collaboration with the California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) are proposing to restore wetlands on the 1,584-acre Bel Marin Keys Unit V (BMKV) property as an expansion of the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project (HWRP). The Corps is the lead agency for this project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Conservancy is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Abstract: The final environmental report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) for the HWRP was issued in 1998, and the project was authorized in the federal Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999. The Conservancy purchased the BMKV site in 2001 with the intent of proposing restoration on the site as an expansion of the HWRP. This report describes and analyzes the potential environmental effects of proposed restoration of tidal salt marsh and other wetland habitat and associated actions as part of the expansion of the HWRP. This report will support decision making by the Corps, Conservancy, and other responsible agencies to implement the proposed expansion and to ensure compliance with the NEPA, CEQA, and other pertinent laws and regulations.

The purpose of the BMKV expansion is to restore important tidal wetland habitat in San Francisco Bay and restoration at the BMKV site represents the implementation of local, regional, and national planning efforts. Three alternatives are analyzed in this document: Alternative 1 – Dredged Material Placement with Enlarged Pacheco Pond; Alternative 2 – Dredged Material Placement with Seasonal Wetlands; and Alternative 3 – Natural Sedimentation with Enlarged Pacheco Pond. The alternatives include restoration of tidal and other wetland habitats, construction and improvement of levees, installation of new water conveyance structures, and construction of a recreational trail, among other elements.

Federal, state, and local agencies and the public have the opportunity to comment on this document during the comment period from July 19, 2002 to September 02, 2002. A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Marin County Humane Society, 171 Bel Marin Keys Boulevard, Novato, CA to solicit additional comments on the draft SEIR/S. Information on the project can be found on the Internet at [http:// www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/belmarin](http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/belmarin). Written comments can also be submitted via email to: belmarinkeys@jsanet.com. The document is also available at the City of Novato downtown library, Marin County central library, and City of Novato and Marin County Planning Departments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Questions and/or written comments about the proposed action and SEIR/EIS can be addressed to:

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